

AP Black Nymph Pattern

Sunriver Angler's Fly Tying Corner

By: Phil Fischer



This month I am paying homage to my fly-tying mentor, the late Andre' Puyans. Andy taught many folks how to tie flies over his lifetime and I am humbled and honored to have been tutored for many years in his shop, Creative Sports in Pleasant Hill California. I first met Andy when I was just a young boy with wonder in my eyes about fly fishing. I would wander about the shop and peer at all the fly patterns, rods and reels. Andy took a liking to me and began teaching me a few basics about fly tying. That was over 50 years ago. I still retain much of what he taught me about our sport; respect, tradition, and having fun. Most importantly, he taught me how to tie flies, a passion that remains at the forefront of my life today..

For this month's Fly Tying Corner pattern I chose one of Andy's original designs; the A/P Nymph Black Fly Pattern. I tied thousands of AP Nymphs to fill the shop bins years ago. The whole series of AP Nymphs consisted of the AP Black, AP Peacock and Pheasant, AP Muskrat, AP Beaver, AP Hare's Ear and others that escape my memory right now. This series was designed to imitate mayfly nymphs and can be tied in various colors and sizes to match the natural. Andy experimented for years with this pattern and finally settled on this final design. I have made only one minor deviation from the original; I used UV resin to coat the wing case of the fly, which did not exist when Andy designed these patterns. The original AP Nymph was not tied with a bead. But as time

went on and beads became popular, Andy often added a bead to the AP Nymph to help it sink more quickly. He was very sensitive to a mistake made by many in calling the AP patterns “all purpose” nymphs. But he was quick to correct that faux pas with a loud booming voice that I can still hear quite clearly, “AP stands for Andre Puyans nymphs!”

Give this easy-to-tie pattern a try on our local streams and rivers. It is an excellent imitation for baetis nymphs when tied in size 18's in black or dark brown. It is also an excellent imitation for dark colored stoneflies in the young immature stages, or even an October Caddis on a size 8 in a hare's ear color. It fishes well for rainbows and brook trout in our area rivers. But I have also caught steelhead on this pattern tied in larger sizes on the Rogue, Deschutes and Trinity rivers. You can weight the pattern differently depending on the waters you'll fish. The one demonstrated in the video (link below) is tied to get down quickly to tempt those brook trout on the Upper Deschutes river.

AP Black Nymph Pattern Materials List:

Hook: Firehole 718, Size 14-18

Bead: 3/32" Tungsten Bead, Matte Black

Weight: 6 wraps of .015 Lead Wire

Thread: Danville's Flat Waxed 6/0, Black

Tail, Wing Case and Legs: Moose Mane

Rib: Copper Brown Ultra Wire - Fine

Abdomen, Thorax and Head: SLF Spikey Dubbing, Black

Tying instructions and steps are being published in video form, and can be found on the Sunriver Anglers Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SunriverAnglers/>, or at the following YouTube URL: <https://youtu.be/2-ysU0M7Fnk>

Experiment with this pattern during on Central Oregon's Streams and Rivers. If you have questions or would like additional information about the AP Black Nymph pattern, please don't hesitate to email me. Or if you have suggestions on future patterns to feature in this column, I welcome your input. I can be reached at Philfischer@sbcglobal.net.